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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

HIGHLY AVAILABLE TCP SYSTEMS WITH FAIL-OVER CONNECTIONS

The present invention provides a method, system and apparatus by which TCP
connections may be failed-over from one system to another within a highly available network
service, and appear transparent to the remote client. The connection state and ownership
information of a system is broadcast within the network, so that if a first system crashes while
running an application, a predetermined take-over policy causes a peer system to assume
connection without loss of data such that a permanent connection has been established from the
client's point of view. After the failed system has been restored to a normal state, new
connections are established by the first system.

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